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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/701,402	03/19/2001	William Frederick Schacht	4635/234	9927

757 7590 01/29/2003

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60611

EXAMINER

ANDERSON, GERALD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/701,402

Applicant(s)

SCHACHT ET AL.

Examiner

JERRY A ANDERSON

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on October 7, 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I is acknowledged. Claims 22-101 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The stanchion is claimed as having surfaces that are "attached" one to another in claim 3. This is not what is described on page 11 and shown in Figures 5-11. The walls of the stanchion are described as "integrally attached" to each other. First, it is not clear what the phrase "integrally attached" means. Second, if parts are attached they must be separable. The Figures show a stanchion with integral inner, outer and rear walls. The inner wall 116 and the outer wall 118 are identified in the disclosure but not in Figures 5-11. It is possible that the front wall 112 has been attached to the integral walls but the attachment means is not described and it is not shown as a separate part. The "top stanchion surface" 124 appears, in Figure 5, to be an upper edge of a side wall and the Examiner suspects this is true of the "bottom stanchion surface" 126 as well. An edge is

cl. 10 objected to when the only time all in brackets engage
→ when the bracket extends above the top of the frame
and no support in disclosure for this arrangement.
12 it is the brackets which are adjusted the work surface just overlying the
side.

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not a surface, particularly not in the context of a claim defining the other walls of a stanchion as surfaces.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

and 7 me
Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Terms in the claims which lack proper antecedent basis include: "the hooks" in claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, as presented, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by.

Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made

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to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over as applied to claims above, and further in view of . is cited showing a. fails to show. is cited for the purpose. is cited for the purpose of. Since the references are from the same field of endeavor the purpose of would have been obvious in the pertinent art of at the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one having an ordinary skill in the art to have modified with a in view of and with a in view of.

Claim 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mollenkopf and further in view of Behrendt, Canfield et al and the ordinary skill of one versed in the art. Mollenkopf is cited showing a desk 10 with a worksurface 20 supported by cantilever members 18 attached to stanchions 12 in a suitable manner, the stanchions having openings 22 and covers 49 and having brackets 40 attached to the stanchions. ^{ad worksurface} Mollenkopf fails to show ^{the manner of attaching the brackets} an adjustable worksurface, J-shaped brackets ^{supporting the worksurface to the stanchions} or trapezoidal stanchions. Generally the shape of an element is considered an obvious matter of design choice. Here the shape of the stanchions and the brackets are

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considered to be an obvious modification of the shape of elements within the ability of one having an ordinary skill in the art. Behrendt is cited to show that it is well known to use the trapezoidal shape for a stanchion. Canfield et al is cited showing that it is well known to use the J-shape for a bracket and that a suitable manner of attaching a cantilever bracket to a stanchion includes slots in the stanchion and hooks in the bracket to adjustable support the worksurface relative to the stanchions. Since the references are from the same field of endeavor the purpose of Behrendt and Canfield et al would have been obvious in the pertinent art of Mollenkopf at the time of the invention and it would have been obvious for one having an ordinary skill in the art to have modified Mollenkopf with stanchions having a trapezoidal shape in view of Behrendt, and with brackets having a J-shape and with slots in the stanchion and hooks in the bracket to adjustable support the worksurface relative to the stanchions in view of Canfield et al and as an obvious matter of design choice within the ability of one versed in the art.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schmidt, Wills, Marshall et al

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry Anderson whose telephone number is 703 038 2202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

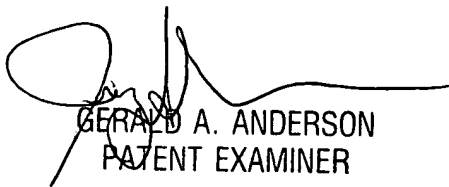
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703 308 24668. The fax phone numbers for

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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305 3597 for regular communications and 703 306 4195 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 2197.

Jaa
January 26, 2003



GERALD A. ANDERSON
PATENT EXAMINER